

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 DOEE-00 SOE-02
AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
IO-13 L-03 NASA-01 NEA-10 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01
DOE-11 CEQ-01 OES-07 SS-15 /139 W
-----022180 241823Z /42

O 241740Z FEB 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6430
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 02978

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, CCD, US, UR
SUBJECT: CCD: CO-CHAIRMEN'S MEETING ON CCD ORGANIZATION
AND PROCEDURES

1. SUMMARY: CCD CO-CHAIRMEN MET ON FEBRUARY 24 TO
EXCHANGE VIEWS ON CCD ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURES ISSUES
WHICH WILL BE DISCUSSED DURING INFORMAL MEETINGS OF THE
COMMITTEE DURING THE WEEK FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 3. THERE
WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT CCD SHOULD REMAIN A NEGOTIATING
BODY, THAT THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS SHOULD REMAIN ROUGHLY
THE SAME, AND THAT THE CO-CHAIRMANSHIP ARRANGEMENT
SHOULD NOT BE CHANGED UNLESS A MORE EFFECTIVE ARRANGEMENT
IS ADOPTED. END SUMMARY.

2. ON FEBRUARY 24, U.S. REP (AMBASSADOR FISHER) AND
SOVIET REP (AMBASSADOR LIKHATCHEV) MET IN THE SOVIET
MISSION IN THEIR CAPACITY AS CO-CHAIRMEN OF THE CONFERENCE
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OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT (CCD) TO EXCHANGE VIEWS
ON CCD ORGANIZATIONAL AND PROCEDURAL ISSUES. THE CCD IS
SCHEDULED TO HOLD INFORMAL MEETINGS ON ORGANIZATIONAL AND
PROCEDURAL ISSUES DURING THE WEEK FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 3.

3. FISHER SAID THERE WERE THREE MAIN ISSUES WHICH WERE
LIKELY TO BE DISCUSSED DURING THE WEEK AHEAD.

A. NATURE OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CCD AND UN. IN THIS REGARD, HE SAID THAT THE U.S. IS STRONGLY OF THE VIEW THAT THE CCD MUST CONTINUE AS A NEGOTIATING FORUM AND NOT BE CONVERTED INTO A VOTING BODY.

B. MEMBERSHIP. WHILE THE U.S. DEL BELIEVES THAT THE CURRENT MEMBERSHIP IS ABOUT RIGHT, FISHER SAID THAT 2 OR 3 MORE MEMBERS WOULDN'T HURT. HE INDICATED THAT THE U.S. DEL IS REASONABLY RELAXED ON THIS ISSUE.

C. CO-CHAIRMANSHIP. FISHER SAID THAT THE U.S. IS FLEXIBLE ON THE ISSUE OF THE CO-CHAIRMANSHIP, BUT THAT WE DO NOT WISH TO CHANGE JUST FOR THE SAKE OF CHANGE. HE NOTED THAT THIS ISSUE HAD BEEN DISCUSSED BY THE U.S. AND SOVIET DELS IN NEW YORK, PRIMARILY IN THE CONTEXT OF FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN THE CCD. HE SAID THAT THIS ISSUE IS LIKELY TO COME UP AT THE SSOD REGARDLESS OF WHAT THE FRENCH DO. FISHER, STRESSED THAT IN ANY CASE THE U.S. WOULD NOT WISH TO DO AWAY WITH THE CO-CHAIRMANSHIP UNLESS IT WOULD BE REPLACED BY A MORE EFFECTIVE ARRANGEMENT.

4. LIKHATCHEV AGREED THAT THE THREE ISSUES MENTIONED BY FISHER WOULD ARISE AND THOUGHT THAT THE QUESTION OF ESTABLISHING A PERMANENT SUB-COMMITTEE MIGHT ALSO COME UP.

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A. NATURE OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CCD AND UN. LIKHATCHEV SAID THAT THE SOVIET SIDE AGREES WITH THE U.S. THAT THE CCD SHOULD BE PRESERVED AS A NEGOTIATING BODY, AND THOUGHT THAT MOST MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE SHARE THIS VIEW.

B. MEMBERSHIP. LIKHATCHEV SAID THAT HE WOULD BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO REACT ON THE QUESTION OF MEMBERSHIP AFTER THE VARIOUS PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN TABLED. HOWEVER, HE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE WITH THE U.S. VIEW THAT THE PRESENT SIZE OF THE CCD IS CORRECT AND THAT 2 OR 3 NEW MEMBERS WOULD POSE NO PROBLEM. WITH RESPECT TO OFFERING NON-MEMBERS GREATER OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE, HE INDICATED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTABLE TO CHANGE THE NATURE OF THE CCD BY MAKING IT A "DEBATING FORUM" AND PERMIT NON-MEMBERS TO SPEAK OR ATTEND MEETINGS. HE NOTED THAT NON-MEMBERS COULD ALREADY SUBMIT WORKING PAPERS, CITING SEVERAL EXAMPLES, AND SAID THAT THIS WAS A "BUSINESS-LIKE APPROACH."

C. CO-CHAIRMANSHIP. LIKHATCHEV SAID THAT THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CCD AS A NEGOTIATING BODY FLOWED FROM

THE CO-CHAIRMANSHIP. HE CHARACTERIZED THE U.S. AND USSR
AS "PLAYING THE TWO FIRST FIDDLES IN QUESTIONS OF DISARMA-

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 GENEVA 02978

MENT." HE AGREED THAT THERE SHOULD NOT BE A CHANGE IN THE
INSTITUTION OF THE CO-CHAIRMANSHIP JUST FOR THE SAKE OF
CHANGE. LIKHATCHEV EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT IT WOULD NOT
BE IN U.S. OR SOVIET INTEREST FOR EITHER TO SAY IN THE CCD
THAT IT IS NOT AGAINST CHANGING THE CO-CHAIRMANSHIP. HE
SAID THAT NEITHER THE U.S. NOR THE USSR SHOULD CONTRIBUTE
TO THE BREAKDOWN OF AN INSTITUTION THAT BOTH FIND USEFUL.

D. ESTABLISHMENT OF CCD PERMANENT SUB-COMMITTEE.
LIKHATCHEV SAID HE AGREED WITH FISHER'S OBSERVATION THAT
THE PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A CCD PERMANENT SUB-COMMITTEE
IS ESSENTIALLY THE INITIATIVE OF A SINGLE DELEGATION
(MEXICO). HE THOUGHT THAT THE OBJECTIVE OF THIS PROPOSAL
WAS TO IMPLANT A BUREAUCRACY IN THE CCD.

5. FISHER SAID THAT HE ONLY DETECTED A SLIGHT DIFFERENCE
OF NUANCE IN THE U.S. AND SOVIET APPROACH TO THE CO-
CHAIRMANSHIP ISSUE. HE SAID THAT HE WANTED TO MAKE CLEAR
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THAT DURING THE CCD INFORMAL MEETINGS NEXT WEEK HE WOULD
INDICATE FLEXIBLE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE INSTITUTION OF THE
CO-CHAIRMANSHIP BUT COUPLE THIS WITH NO CHANGE FOR THE
SAKE OF CHANGE. THOSE WHO ADVOCATE CHANGE MUST COME UP
WITH SOMETHING BETTER. VANDEN HEUVEL

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